

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/612,969
Attorney Docket No.: Q76233

REMARKS

I. Formal Matters

This amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated April 20, 2004, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of objection and rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 26-29 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicant has added new dependent claims depending from claim 26. Applicant has added new claims 30-35. New claims 30-35 are supported in the originally filed specification.

The features of claims 30 and 31 are supported, for example, in the summary of the invention. Claim 32 is well supported throughout the specification. Support for claim 33 can be found, e.g., at ln. 11-13 of page 42 of the specification. Claim 34 is supported, e.g., at ln. 10-12 of page 25. Finally, claim 35 is supported, e.g., by the description on page 28, lines 23-24.

II. Rejections of Claims Based on Formal Matters

Claims 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The use of terms such as "in/out" (claim 26) and "receive/transmit" and "from/to" (claim 29) make the scope of the claims indefinite. Applicant has amended claims 26 and 29 to more clearly define the subject matter.

III. Rejections of Claims Based on Prior Art

Claims 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Yuyama et al. (US Patent No. 6,397,558, hereinafter “Yuyama”). To be an “anticipation” rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every element and recitation of the Applicant’s claims. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are proper only when the claimed subject matter is identically disclosed or described in the prior art. Thus, the reference must clearly and unequivocally disclose every element and recitation of the claimed invention.

Yuyama relates to a medicine packing apparatus for packing the medicine to be taken at each dosing time into respective medicine bags (*see* col. 1, ln.4-6, Yuyama). Yuyama teaches printing a desired printing content onto a predetermined printing medium. By contrast, the claimed invention is a printer that prints content associated with a specific article onto a printing medium based on the particular article. However, Yuyama merely teaches a print unit arranged to print a predetermined information on the packing paper fed from the packing paper feed unit prior to forming the medicine belt (*see* col. 2, ln. 53-55, Yuyama). Yuyama is not capable of adjusting the printing mechanism for different sizes or print mediums, and thus does not teach or suggest printing onto a medium based on the particular article.

Therefore, the rejection of independent claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be reconsidered and withdrawn. Since claims 27-29 depend from claim 26, and since the Yuyama reference does not disclose all of the limitations of claim 26, Applicant submits that claims 27-29 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 26. Accordingly, Applicant

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respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

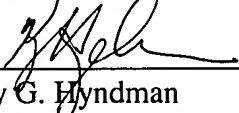
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